

Program

Land of tolerance Mesopotamia

Our beautiful country is full of historical and natural beauties to visit. Almost every region has its own architectural beauties and artifacts.

Let's visit this land of tolerance together.

1 Day - Istanbul

- ✿ *Arrival in Istanbul - Airport IST*
- ✿ *Transfer and check-in at the hotel.*
- ✿ *Free time or, if you wish, you can visit an excursion of your choice.*
- ✿ *Lodging in Istanbul*

2 Day - Hatay

- ✿ *Departure from Istanbul Arrival in Hatay*

Where the Mediterranean Sea bids farewell to Anatolia, your gaze will have a beautiful view – this is the city of tolerance Hatay, a city with a thousand-year history ... One of the oldest settlements in the world, where from century to century all religions and cultures live together in peace and quiet, forming their a unique mosaic of cultures. It is one of the most outstanding cities in the world, which has survived great eras, wars, religions ... and witnessed many events.

- ✿ *Tunnel of Titus Vespasian / Besikli Cave*

A real miracle of ancient engineering, located on the outskirts of the small Turkish town of Samandag. Roman building, 1st century BC We will also visit the Necropolis carved into the rock. Beshikli cave and ancient tombs carved into the rock – Unusual antique place, 1st century BC

- ✿ *Church of St. Peter*

One of the oldest and main shrines of Christianity, the world's first cave church where the Apostle Peter read his sermons is located in the rock of Mount Starius and is 13 m deep, 9.5 m wide and 7 m high.

- ✿ *Hotel Museum Antakya*

During the construction of the hotel, ancient excavations and mosaics were found. Therefore, today the hotel building looks like hovering over the ancient ruins.

- ✿ *Archaeological Museum*

Hatay is the city of mosaics! Thousands of mosaics have already been found in its surroundings, and how many more can be found! Any excavation work is strictly prohibited here, except for archaeological works, the area is under the protection of UNESCO. Therefore, of course, we will visit the unique and world famous, the second largest mosaic museum in the world.

- ✿ *Lodging in Hatay*

3 Day - Gaziantep

- ✿ Breakfast in the hotel
- ✿ Moving to Gaziantep

Gaziantep, the largest city in Southeast Anatolia, is a wealthy metropolis with a population of almost 2 million. As one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia, the city has been home to many civilizations and has retained its importance in every period of its rich history. The city's location at the intersection of Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean has made it a center where different civilizations, cultures and religions meet. The Silk Road made it an important cultural and commercial center.

- ✿ Zeugma Mosaic Museum

The covered part of the museum covers an area of 25,000 square meters, the open area – 30,000. Its size is comparable to the Bardo National Museum in Tunisia, the largest mosaic museum in the world. The museum contains many exhibits from the Roman era. But the main symbol of the museum is a fragment of one of the mosaics – a gypsy girl. The girl's eyes are positioned in such a way that it seems as if they are looking at each viewer.

- ✿ Coppersmith Market (Bakircilar)

This oriental market is one of the five largest historical bazaars in Turkey. An unforgettable flavor, a mixture of modernity and history. The copper business, which has over 500 years of history in Gaziantep, continues today and is still produced by copper craftsmen. The bazaar, where traditional copper products continue, will captivate you with beautiful hand-made embroidery. Bakircilar is a bazaar where you can feel the historical texture with its deep history and fun craftsmen. The bazaar, which is the oldest shopping area in the city, is currently attracting the attention of tourists.

- ✿ Almaci Bazaar

Oriental market for spices, local products and souvenirs (Apple Bazaar), known as the oldest bazaar in Gaziantep. Almaci Bazaar will charm you with Gaziantep walnut sausages on the shelves, fruit pulp made from carefully selected Antep pistachios, dried vegetables hanging from the ceiling, delicious teas, the famous Gaziantep Menengich coffee and a variety of spices distributed in the bazaar.

- ✿ Tahmis coffee house

Authentic Oriental Coffee Shop Tahmis 1635 This coffee shop is called the highlight of the city, and its signature drink is coffee made from roasted wild pistachios

- ✿ Lodging in Gaziantep

4 Day - Adiyaman / Nemrut

- ✿ Breakfast in the hotel
- ✿ Moving to Adiyaman / Nemrut
- ✿ One hour promenade along the Euphrates River.

1-hour boat trip along the Euphrates River. Inspection of the sunken city of Halfeti. You have never seen anything like this! A modern city under water! Houses, schools, a mosque ... Part of the city was flooded due to the construction of a dam in 1999.

✿ *Rumkale fortress*

A well-preserved Roman fortress and its buildings of the late Roman and medieval period. Located on the right bank of the Euphrates River.

✿ *The Black Rose of Halfeti*

The symbol of the region is the Mysterious Black Rose, grown only in the Halfeti region, near the banks of the Euphrates River, and nowhere else in the world! The Black Rose, which only grows in Halfeti, is a legend known as the "Devil Rose".

✿ *Lodging in Adiyaman / Nemrut*

5 Day - Sanliurfa

✿ *Meeting the Sunrise on Mount Nemrut*

An extraordinarily magical place! The sanctuary on Mount Nemrut is the Tomb of Antiochus I of Commagene, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The mountain is located in southeastern Turkey in the Taurus Mountains. Height is 2150 meters above sea level.

✿ *Breakfast in the hotel*

✿ *Historic Cendere Bridge*

The historic bridge, located on the Cendere stream in Adiyaman, is known as one of the oldest bridges in the world that is still in use today. It is located 55 km from Adiyaman in an ancient settlement known today as Eskikale. It connects Kakhta and Sinchik. It is the second largest arch bridge built by the Romans. Its length is 120 m, width is 7 m. It consists of 92 stones, each weighing 10 tons.

✿ *Moving to the City of Sanliurfa*

✿ *Göbekli Tepe. Temple complex*

Göbekli Tepe. Temple complex 10,000 BC A unique find by archaeologists in 1994 – the oldest temple in the world, which was named "Turkish Stonehenge". Although Göbekli Tepe is older than Stonehenge by as much as 7000 years (!), And also older than the Egyptian pyramids and all other traces of ancient civilizations found on the planet!

✿ *Sanliurfa city*

A city with a very rich history, this area played an important role in the formation of Christianity and the Crusades. The Sanliurfa area has an extremely rich ancient history. Some scholars suggest that Adam and Eve lived nearby in Gobekli Tepe. According to both Jewish and Muslim traditions, Urfa is considered the birthplace of the prophet Abraham. The area is also closely associated with the prophet Job (in Arabic Eyub). But it is not only the major religions that worship this city. Armenians consider it a sacred city – according to them, the Armenian alphabet was created here. Urfa is a city that was conquered and dominated by several civilizations, including Sumerians, Babylonians, Hittites, Armenians, Assyrians, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Sassanids, Byzantines and Crusaders.

✿ *Balikligol sacred carp pond*

Pond with sacred carps Balikligol – the Sacred Pond, which is associated with the legend of the prophet Abraham. Located in the courtyard of an old mosque of the 12th century.

✿ *Lodging in Sanliurfa Town*

6 Day - Mardin

✿ *Breakfast in the hotel*

✿ *Harran*

Harran's hive houses; Harran is one of the oldest cities in the world, where biblical events took place. Abraham lived here. Here, in Harran, he received a call from God, and at the age of 75 he went to the land of Canaan (Palestine). To this day, the local population in Harran lives in unusual windowless hive houses, the architecture of which has been preserved for 3000 years.

✿ *Moving to Mardin City*

Mardin

Sung in the enchanting songs of the peoples, the ruins of ancient cities, mosques, churches and monasteries. Higher Commonwealth of Religions: Muslims, Assyrians, Christians and Yezidis. Languages, religions, sects and religious freedom are here in Mardin. From the first revolution of the wheel of Mesopotamia, the cycle of life begins here. The whole world is amazed at his insatiable love, respect and patience.

✿ *Kasimiye Madrasah*

Kasimiye Madrasah XIII – XIV century – A very popular religious Islamic school, the institution worked for almost 500 years until 1924. The architecture of the buildings is perfectly preserved. The main attractions are the Sufi Fountain, symbolizing the flow of human life from birth to death and after death, as well as an impressive doorway with surprisingly intricate stone carvings. Once on the roof, you will admire the beautiful panoramic views of the city.

✿ *Free time in Mardin*

Mardin, the land of fairy tales

We will take you back in time, several centuries ago, because the city of Mardin is a true gem of history! You will find yourself on the streets that have perfectly preserved their historical charm .. Ancient Rome, Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire ... many buildings have been preserved to this day. History is literally everywhere! And did you know that in 1960 UNESCO protected the whole city! Before Mardin, only Venice had such an honor!

✿ *Lodging in Mardin City*

7 Day - Mardin

✿ *Breakfast in the hotel*

✿ *Deyuril Zafaran monastery*

Deyuril Zafaran Monastery (Saffron Monastery) V century – It is famous not only for its rich history, but also for its caves in the rocks, carved out by monks, as well as for its unique stone ceiling without a bonding composition – the slabs are tilted and have held each other for almost one and a half thousand years.

✿ *The ancient city of Dara*

The ancient city of Dara VI century – Early Byzantine city of Dara, was founded only 30 years after the fall of ancient Rome and has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in recent years.

✿ *Mor Gabriel Monastery*

It was founded in 397 by Syrian Orthodox monks. Since that time, it has been operating without interruption, receiving up to 20 thousand pilgrims every year

✿ *Old town Midyat*

Wander the streets of this ancient city and marvel at its beautiful oriental architecture, where stately golden houses with carved windows and doors rise above the high walls. The city of Midyat itself is mentioned in history as early as the 8th century BC, when it was taken by the Assyrian king, but for centuries it repeatedly passed from hand to hand. Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Mongols and many other conquerors managed to visit here.

✿ *Konukevi Guest House*

The most famous attraction in Midyat. The stone guesthouse of the governor, who occupied the highest point of the old city. Konukevi was filmed in the popular TV series “The Power”, which is why access here was closed for many years

✿ *Lodging in Mardin City*

8 Day – Istanbul Departure

✿ *Breakfast in the hotel*

✿ *Departure from Mardin Airport*

✿ *Arrival in Istanbul Airport*